Title: Need to accord clearance to Aung Dam Project of Orissa and also to provide adequate funds for quick execution of work.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR): The Padampur sub-Division in Bargarh district of Orissa and Agalpur Block in Bolangir district are perennially drought-prone areas. The Padampur sub-Division is adjacent to the KBK districts. There is no major or medium irrigation scheme in the area even after 52 years of Independence, although a number of rivers are flowing through this area. Keeping in view the acute water problem, the Government of Orissa had initiated a scheme for a river dam in the river Aung which originates in Madhya Pradesh and flows through this area of Orissa. This is known as the Aung Dam project. Strangely, this project has been lying without sanction of the concerned Ministry for the last several decades on many pretexts. If this project, which would be a major irrigation project, materialises, more than 50,000 hectares of agricultural land will get irrigation facilities. This sub-Division, which is a backward area in the State, having majority of the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, is not having a single industry and primarily the people depend on agriculture. The Aung Dam project, if executed, will change the whole economy of the area which would be a major boost for the economic development of the State as a whole.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to accelerate the process of giving clearance to this project and to provide necessary funds for quick execution of work.